

4-6-1992

## Hollins Columns (1992 Apr 6)

Hollins College

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# Hollins College

RICHARD E. KIRKWOOD  
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Hollins College April 6, 1992  
Roanoke, Virginia

Volume 63

Issue No. 10

ACHIEVEMENT, TRADITION, VISION 1842-1992

## Presidential Inauguration

Information Provided by  
The Hollins Information Office

On Saturday, April 11, Dr. Jane Margaret O'Brien will be inaugurated as the eight president of Hollins College. The academic ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. in Jessie Ball duPont Chapel on the Hollins campus.

Lorraine R. Matusak, program director for the Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan, is the featured speaker. Her topic is "Leadership for the Twenty-first Century."

Dr. O'Brien, who came to Hollins from Middlebury College where she was dean of the faculty and associate professor of chemistry, assumed the presidency of Virginia's first college for women in July. Since she has:

\* testified before the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology making recommendations for increasing the participation of women in the sciences

\* established the nation's first graduate program in children's literature

\* taught an innovative course on "The Global Environment and

World Politics" which is forming the basis for a new program in environmental studies

More than 1,000 people, including 100 delegates from colleges and universities nationwide, are expected for the occasion. James Dyke, Virginia's secretary of education; all living past Hollins presidents, Paula Brownlee, Carroll Brewster, and John Logan; and Jadwiga Sebrechts, executive director of the Women's College Coalition, will be among the guests.

Induction of the president will be made by Sion A. Boney of Greensboro, chair of the college's board of trustees.

The 10:30 a.m. ceremony will conclude with greetings to the new president by the president of the Student Government Association, Anne Jennings Bell of Richmond; the president of the Alumnae Association Board of Directors, Susan Eaves Otter of New York City; and the chair of the Hollins faculty, Joe W. Leedom, associate professor of history.

Dr. O'Brien received her bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Vassar college in 1975 and her Ph.D. in chemistry from the

University of Delaware in 1981. She has been a Fellow in the Kellogg National Fellowship Program which focuses on leadership development. This program has allowed her to visit over a dozen countries in the past two years and has sparked her keen interest in Latin America. Dr. O'Brien has served as an International Fellow with the Association of American Colleges, helping to develop their initiatives in support of international and global education for liberal education. She has also served on a number of boards for organizations involved in science and environmental education including the Rainforest Alliance Educational Advisory Committee.

Dr. O'Brien is the eight president of Hollins College and is the fourth woman to hold that position. Matty Cocke, who served as Hollins' president from 1901-1933 was the first woman to lead a college in Virginia.

Dr. O'Brien succeeds Dr. Paula P. Brownlee who served as president from 1981 until August 1990 when she became the first woman to lead the Association of American Colleges.



**Elizabeth Conley, Incoming SGA President**

*"Change fosters growth. As SGA President, I want to see a growth here at Hollins. I want to see achievement. I want to see honor and integrity. I want to see strong academic programs, popular social programs, and innovative co-curricular programs that stretch our minds. I want to see ideas in action."*

Photo: Peggy Walton

## Volunteers Needed for Annual Student Phonathon

by Hila Murchison and Merrie Lomenick  
Co-Chairs, Student Phonathon

Our annual Student Phonathon will be held from 5:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., April 12-15 this year. The

success of this traditional fundraiser depends upon your participation!

The Phonathon, which is housed in the Botetourt Reading room, consists of telephone calls to alumnae and parents. The donated funds are applied to the operational costs of the college. This pays for academic programs, financial aid, maintenance of the beautiful campus grounds and historic buildings, heating for the residence halls, athletic equipment and uniforms for the Hollins athletic teams, classroom and laboratory equipment, computers and much more. We ask that you dedicate a bit of your time on one or more evenings to make calls for Hollins.

The Phonathon is really fun! You would be making your own contribution to support our college. Ca-

maraderie always runs high! We want to keep the phones busy all evening. Moreover, treats such as popcorn, soda, and homemade chocolate chip cookies (Dr. Gray's!) are provided while the calls are being made. A range of awards including gift certificates from local businesses and Cotillion tickets will be given to students who obtain donations. Also, at the conclusion of each session, participants are entitled to a free three-minute long distance call, compliments of the Annual Fund.

The students who call or sign up first will get a free t-shirt. Call Stephanie Knoebber, Annual Fund Secretary, at extension 6412. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at X6161 or X6065. We look forward to sharing the excitement with you!

## Women's Center Sponsors Race Forum on Campus

Information Provided by  
Women's Center

couraged to participate in the discussion.

The Women's Center at Hollins College is sponsoring a forum entitled "Black Women/White Women: Who Am I To You?" Wednesday, April 8, at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the forum is to help break down barriers between the races and move closer toward mutual understanding.

Co-facilitators will be Jane Margaret O'Brien, President of Hollins College, and Melinda Payne, Recruiting and Training Manager for the *Roanoke Times and World-News*. They will pose questions concerning various racial situations to a panel of black and white women. The audience will be en-

Panelists include: Jaletta Albright, Account Executive, Fox Television; Mary Hackley, Director of Elementary Education, Roanoke City; Cheryl Hilton, Asst. Director of Admissions, Hollins College; Harriet Lewis, Director, Northwest Child Development Center; Wendy O'Neil, Executive Director, YWCA of Roanoke Valley; and Sally Rugaber, Member of the City Manager's Task Force to Study Community Relations.

The forum will be held in the auditorium of the Central YWCA (605 First Street, S.W.) and is free and open to the public. If there are questions, call the Women's Center at 362-6270.

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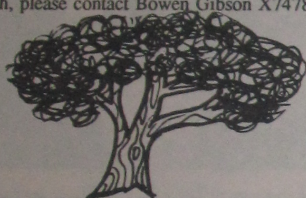
## Celebrating Earth Day 1992

by Bowen Gibson  
H.E.A.L.

This year Roanoke Earth Day will be held at Hollins College on April 25, 1992 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The theme, "Campaign for the Earth", is calling on the community to come together on Earth Day to take responsibility for our planet. It is not enough for us to just recycle. Each individual must become more involved in the future of our Earth.

Earth Day will offer the opportunity for students and the community to get more involved in environmental issues. Over forty environmental groups will be at Hollins to provide information on local, national, and international issues and ways that people can help. There will also be a speaker's forum, a variety of bands, workshops on various topics, children's activities, and a storyteller. Material vendors, crafts people, and food vendors will be there as well.

If you are interested in volunteering for Earth Day or would like to set up a booth, please contact Bowen Gibson X7478 before April 13th.



### The Hollins Column

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## MA Offered for Children's Literature

Information Provided by  
The Hollins Information Office

The first complete graduate program in the humanities devoted exclusively to the study and writing of children's literature has been established at Hollins College in Roanoke, Virginia.

President Jane Margaret O'Brien announced the program before a gathering of award winning writers that included Annie Dillard, Henry Taylor, Lee Smith, Louis Rubin, and George Garrett who were taking part in a weekend reunion of graduates of Hollins' creative writing program. In announcing the unique program, O'Brien said, "I am proud that Hollins College will play a major role in assuring that the serious study of children's literature will become recognized in American higher education."

The writing and study of children's literature has long been a successful part of the Hollins College curriculum. Possibly the most widely known and read alumna of the college is Margaret Wise Brown, a 1932 graduate, among whose many books for children are the classics *Goodnight*

*Moon* and *The Runaway Bunny*. Among the many other Hollins graduates who have written for children are Irv Broughton, John Hay, Jane Jacobsen, Katie Letcher Lyle, and Sylvia Wilkinson.

The study of children's literature as a scholarly classroom experience was initiated at Hollins in 1973 by the major American poet and children's poet, William Jay Smith. The course has remained in the curriculum ever since and has been taught by such writers and scholars as R.H.W. Dillard, Eric Trethewey, and Elizabeth Keyser.

In 1992, the editorship of *Children's Literature*, internationally recognized as the leading scholarly journal in its field, was moved to Hollins College. Francelia Butler, president of the Children's Literature Foundation, editor-in-chief of *Children's Literature*, and professor of English at the University of Connecticut, decided to move the editorship to Hollins in recognition of Hollins' longtime commitment to the writing and study of children's literature and of the reputation for quality of the Hollins' program in English and creative writing.

Professor Butler, who is the most

important figure in the movement to establish the serious study of children's literature in American higher education, is particularly pleased that "the program is going to be developed at a liberal arts college for women. The difficulties I have faced over my academic career in gaining recognition for children's literature as a valid field for study have in great part come from an often unrecognized bias among male professors that the dissemination and study of children's literature is a woman's job, more particularly, another's job." She continues, "I am delighted that Hollins College is going to play a major role in the future serious study of children's literature."

The master's degree program in children's literature will be offered in a summer institute on the Hollins campus beginning in 1992. The program will enable graduate students to work toward and complete an M.A. degree in the writing and study of children's literature over a period of four or five summer sessions. The institute will be closely associated with the Hollins creative writing program, and its

Continued on Page 3

## Editorship of Literature Journal Moves to Hollins

Information Provided by  
College Relations

Francelia Butler, professor of English at the University of Connecticut and president of the Children's Literature Foundation, has announced her decision to move the editorship of the journal, *Children's Literature*, to Hollins College in Roanoke, Virginia. *Children's Literature* is internationally recognized as the leading journal in the field; it is the official journal of the Children's Literature Association and of the children's literature division of the Modern Language Association.

Professor Butler, who is perhaps the most important figure in the movement to establish the serious study of children's literature in American higher education, founded the journal in 1972; it is published by the Yale University Press.

According to Butler, the reasons for her decision are complex, and include her "belief that children's literature has been overlooked and marginalized by the same bias among many male scholars that has caused literature by women in general to be ignored and demeaned. I believe that the journal and its mission of developing serious study of children's literature would be best served by locating it at a women's college. My respect for Hollins, and particularly for its graduate program in English and the fact that Hollins is establishing a graduate degree exclusively in the study and writing of children's literature, which would be the first complete program in the humanities to be offered in the world, significantly influenced my decision."

The journal's valuable copyright has also been transferred to Hollins College. Professor Richard H.W. Dillard, who directs the famed cre-

ative writing program, will assume the duties of editor in chief. Assistant Professor Elizabeth Keyser will be editor of the journal. Professor Butler will remain associated with the journal as founding editor.

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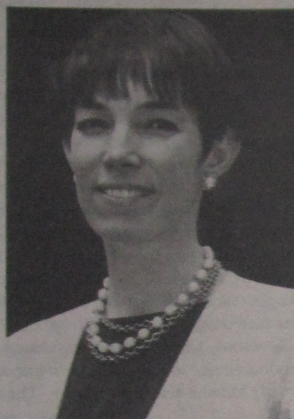
Career Counseling Center



## Inaugural Events

**Friday, April 10**

Dance Festival features the choreography of past and present members of the Hollins dance troupe, Orchesis. Guest dancers and choreographers include Carol Sherman '57; Paula Levine, Hollins professor emeritus; Pat Cody '71; Jennifer Foust '86; and other alumnae and students representing the classes of 1962 through 1995. 8:15 p.m., Hollins Theatre (\$3 faculty, staff, and students). Reservat



**Saturday, April 11**

10:30 p.m. Academic Processional and Inaugural Ceremony  
duPont Chapel

Address by Dr. Lorraine R. Matusak  
The W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Music by Hollins College Chapel Choir  
James Leland, organist and choirmaster

Following the Ceremony Reception - Front Quad

Reading by Robert Pack  
Middlebury College  
Reading by John A. Allen  
Hollins College

3:00 p.m. Memorial Service for John R. Everett, Jr., President of  
Hollins from 1950-60  
Meditation Chapel

8:15 p.m. Dance Festival (see Friday listing)

**Sunday, April 12**

Noon-6 p.m. Peace Festival -Annual Celebration for the promotion  
of world peace. Sponsored by the Hollins College Peace  
Coalition. (\$4 advance, \$5 at event. Proceeds benefit RAM  
House.) Back Quadrangle.

7:30 p.m. Chapel Service  
The Reverend Joseph Keaton  
Central Baptist Church of Roanoke with music by the Gospel  
Choir under the direction of Rebecca Drew.  
duPont Chapel

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## Hollins Takes to Reducing Waste

Information Provided by  
H.E.A.L.

Although most members of the Hollins community have joined in the effort to reduce waste on campus, there are still several measures students are overlooking which could make a great impact. Mr. Wrobel and other members of the Food Services staff are going out of their way to cooperate and make this school more environmentally friendly. Students must be willing to do the same.

Perhaps many of you have noticed that on Fridays, otherwise known as "ice-cream day", there are often Chinet paper bowls for the ice cream. The reason the dining hall is forced to use this wasteful paper product is that the regular bowls seem to disappear. Mr. Wrobel has purchased more bowls to try and replace the ones that are already missing, but they are expensive. Please don't remove the dining hall's bowls, glasses, or utensils from the area and if you have any in your room or apartment, please return them.

The Rat is also in the process of an envi-

ronmental change. Mr. Wrobel has purchased three dozen plastic deli baskets that can be reused in place of the paper and plastic containers the food is currently served in. And also keep in mind that if you take your own cup to the Rat you can receive a 10 cent discount on your beverage. All standard size cups are acceptable.

These are just a few of the ways the members of the Hollins community can work together to reduce the waste we generate.

## Children's Lit.

*Continued from Page 2*

faculty will be drawn from the ranks of Hollins writers and scholars and other leading scholars from the field of children's literature.

To support the establishment of the unique degree program, Professor Francelia Butler has offered to give Hollins her research library in children's literature of over 4,000 volumes, which includes many valuable inscribed editions.



## Letters to the Editors

Letters to the Editors do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff of the Hollins Columns. Signed letters should be typed and placed in the Columns campus mail box in the Post Office. Names withheld at Editors' discretion.

Dear Editors,

With all our busyness and our various concerns, I think many of us go far too long without experiences of soul-stretching beauty. On March 12th, there was a recital by several Hollins pianists and singers which was exquisitely beautiful. My husband and I enjoyed it thoroughly and we'd like to say "thank you" to all those involved. In using their artistic abilities, they gave us an extraordinary experience.

These artists are tricky! Janelle Foster, for example, was so impressive in her playing of Ravel that I was captivated. And I don't even like Ravel! She tricked me into a new appreciation.

But all of the performers were excellent artists—enchanting, uplifting, delightful. Whatever it takes to get to the next performance, do it. Don't miss out! You don't want a flabby soul, do you?

Sincerely,  
Jacquie Lynch (Mrs.)

Dear Editors,

I am writing in response to this month's (March) horrifying illustration on the Stall Stories, which shows an "overweight" woman with a barrel around her, standing on a scale. I don't know who is responsible for choosing the clip art for the Stall Stories publication, but frankly, I was unimpressed, outraged, disgusted, insulted (you get the idea) when I saw the March flier.

Does the Student Services office really think this is funny? Is this how they presume to serve us, by encouraging (or reminding) us to worry about our weight prior to Spring Break?

I've been told that this campus already has a large number of students with eating disorders, and I don't understand how this "joke," if you can call it that, can do anything less than add fuel to the fire.

I thought briefly about writing this letter when I first saw the Stall Stories, but after attending the ad-

dress given by Dr. Suzette Hayden Elgin on March 6, I felt it absolutely necessary. What may seem to be a trivial complaint about a poor joke (that's being generous) is much more significant than that.

Dr. Elgin spoke of one of the most oppressive myths in our society, which is that women should be as thin as sticks in order to be beautiful. I think we are all too familiar with this fallacy and for the folks at Student Services to remind of us it, and in fact reassert it, troubles me.

This is not a message we need, thank you very much. And while it was probably an honest mistake (or something) I hope more care is taken in the future when this publication picks out clip art.

In the meantime, I can only wonder how many women on this campus will read that conveniently placed message, and kneel at the toilet rather than sit on it.

No thanks. I like my weight.

Karissa Sparks, '94

## Shooting for a Safer

### America

by Susanna Person  
Editorial Reporter

America moved swiftly and forcefully in the Persian Gulf crisis. It was saddled with a dilemma that demanded immediate attention and had the blessing of millions of Americans who acknowledged Iraq's unethical operations. Under the conscientious supervision of Saddam Hussein, the Iraqis were playing with some big guns—guns that bore the label "Made in the U.S.A." This was not just a problem of an arms deal gone awry, but a matter of life or death for countless Kuwaitis, Iranians, and if not nipped in the bud, the sanctity of the whole world.

Thank goodness the U.S. moved in to get such dangerous weapons out of the wrong hands. After all, an irrational finger squeezing the trigger only induces senseless destruction.

But the U.S. has other problems to contend with now. With the end of the Cold War, and the optimistic wrap-up of the situation in the Persian Gulf, the Bush administration has been forced to take a serious look at the country's domestic concerns. Health care reforms, social security, the national deficit, the recession, drugs, and AIDS have taken the forefront of the new campaign.

And as usual, the young aren't riding shotgun.

Two weeks ago at Thomas Jefferson High School on the East Side of New York City, Tyrone Sinkler, 16, and Ian Moore, 17, were shot point blank by another student brandishing a chrome-plated .38 caliber revolver. The triggerman, Khalil Sumpter, 15, feared that victim Sinkler was after him for "ratting" on him after a botched mugging last spring.

Incidents like this are not exclusively isolated to bustling cities like New York.

Two weeks ago in Dalton, Georgia, a thirteen year old boy came to school with a .22 caliber rifle and took his teacher hostage. Luckily, the principal was able to confront the boy and persuade him to hand over the rifle.

Schools across the country are implementing new security mea-

sures such as frisking and using metal detectors to guard against smuggled firearms.

The statistics are not too positive either.

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control, one in twenty students (5.3%) carries a gun.

Homicides among juveniles have gone up 93% from 1970 as compared with a 16% increase among adults. In other words, the figures have almost doubled since 1970 from 1,059 to 2,162 in 1990.

Over the past four years at Thomas Jefferson High School in New York, 70 students were killed. And over 50% of the 1900 students who attend have a puncture wound on their body at any given time.

Not surprisingly, guns have become the leading cause of death among older teenage boys—both white and black.

The root of the problem is the easy availability of guns and the rise of drug related crime. Gun control efforts such as the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, which provides law enforcement officials an opportunity to check criminal records before a handgun is purchased, have had notable effects on the availability of weapons.

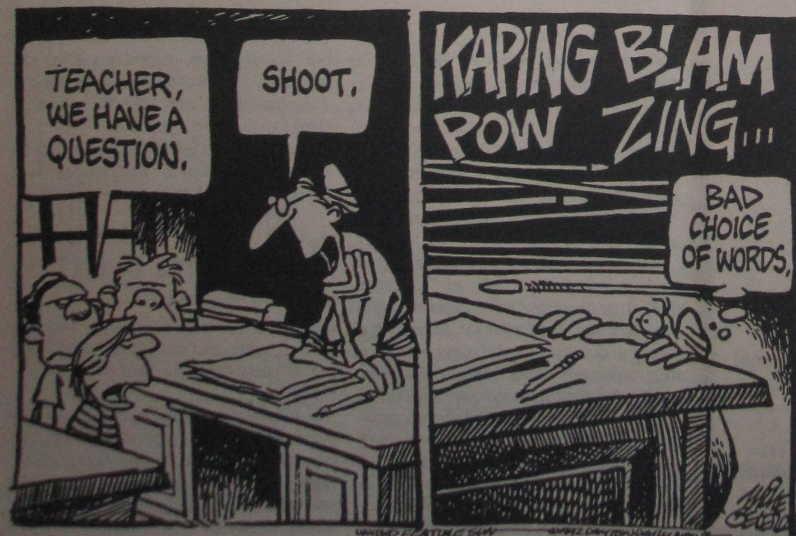
But most governmental responses have been astonishingly callous. House Republicans squashed a section of an anti-crime bill that banned certain assault-style weapons and automatic loading devices. The vote, 247-177, was made only two days after the mass shooting of 22 people in Killeen, Texas last year.

Slack gun control efforts are not only a commentary on the nation's moral attitude, but more importantly, a statement regarding the country's priorities. Instead of being nurtured in a healthy, ethical environment, the American young are being blown away.

Dangerous weapons are in the wrong hands once again.

Irrational little fingers are squeezing the triggers.

The nation's only hope is that it can earn form its past defense tactics and act quickly and forcefully to quell another arms deal gone awry.





## Women's Voices

by Deborah Moore  
Editorial Reporter

I heard her! She said it! And immediately we were sisters, bonded together. What was the spark that had ignited this affinity between us? What was the statement that brought us together, so closely akin?

Laura Dillard, former press secretary to Governor Douglas Wilder said during the women's Symposium on February 20, "To some men, taking contributions seriously from a woman is both a foreign and threatening concept...Men don't take women seriously, only seriously enough to feel threatened or jealous." Her words, filled with truth and anger, stung. Her face was filled with conviction, yet her delivery was restrained.

I remember countless times I too have experienced this insidious disqualification. My mind races back to those unforgotten times when male colleagues of mine resisted, challenged or ignored my professional contributions.

My heart aches as I remember those vexing times—written off, tossed aside, discounted and devalued. Why was I poorly received? What inhibited my credibility in a field in which I had both education and experience? Why was I not allowed to be a full member of the team? Why was my input devalued while my male group members spoke with unchallenged authority? Why did these men speak over and around me as if my presence were invisible? And then even attempt to speak for me, with unqualified authority in my area of expertise? Why?

What is this maddening dynamic, this incredible chasm? What is this infuriating gulf that still leaves me asking, "Is it me?" "What did I do?" "What is wrong with me?"

Laura Dillard and a host of other women have experienced the frustration of being discounted. They and I know the pain of innocently threatening male group members. Why do a woman's goals—to do a job well, to make a purposeful contribution, to be a team player, to be fulfilled through meaningful

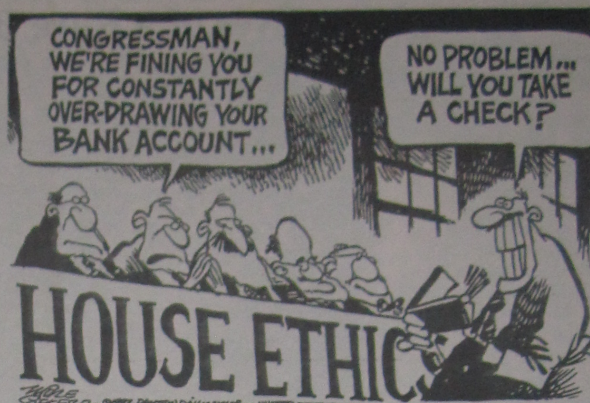
work—threaten her male counterpart?

Twenty years ago, Betty Friedan labeled this "problem that has no name" the "feminine mystique." One hundred years ago, Charlotte Perkins Gilman wrote about similar shackles on woman's freedom. Gilman's discourse in *Woman and Economics* reinforced my beliefs that humanity is less productive, less progressive, and less than it could otherwise be if any sector of itself is restricted from realizing its full potential. Humanity might be sectorized by gender, race, economy, locality, educational level, health or any other classification that would serve to identify and divide. This list is certainly not exhaustive.

But for men and women, the struggle seems to come back to the inimitable double standard between the sexes. It was to this double standard the Dillard referred when she said: "Men are allowed behaviors not allowed women. Not being on equal footing disadvantages and inhibits women from doing their jobs."

It is unthinkable that society praises one behavior in a man, but condemns comparable conduct in a woman. Society depicts men as assertive, sharp and resourceful, but views a similarly behaved woman as a pushy bitch who is aggressive, hard and unfeminine. For a society to allow and encourage behaviors among men, but deny them among women, detonates a prejudicial time bomb.

Man's diminished, threatened ego is only one side of this issue. Equally threatened is woman's confidence. Left shaken by tremors of self-doubt and bewilderment, in time, perhaps, she may give up, weary of fighting the subtle, unseen enemy of discrimination. If that happens—when it happens—her contribution is lost and her talent wasted. This loss is the greatest threat of all. To waste or compromise the talents and insights of humanity's female half for the sake of the male ego is the greatest threat to society I can imagine. This gendered apartheid is a holocaust of the spirit and an outrage against that which is decent and right.



## Learning the Political Game

by Kent Cothren  
Editorial Editor

I spent my past summer in Washington, DC. While I was there, I had the opportunity to intern for my senator, Thad Cochran, of Mississippi. As an intern, I interacted with senators on a daily basis, met other important government officials, attended daily sessions of the Senate and attended committee meetings with my senator and his staffers.

The experience was both exciting and interesting. I learned a great deal about the political process. However, I was surprised by the length of the process. The passage of legislation was an ex-

tremely complicated and lengthy process. Staffers from various committees would contribute their time, energy and hard work to the various pieces of legislation. Then, the members of Congress would debate the issue and eventually pass the bill.

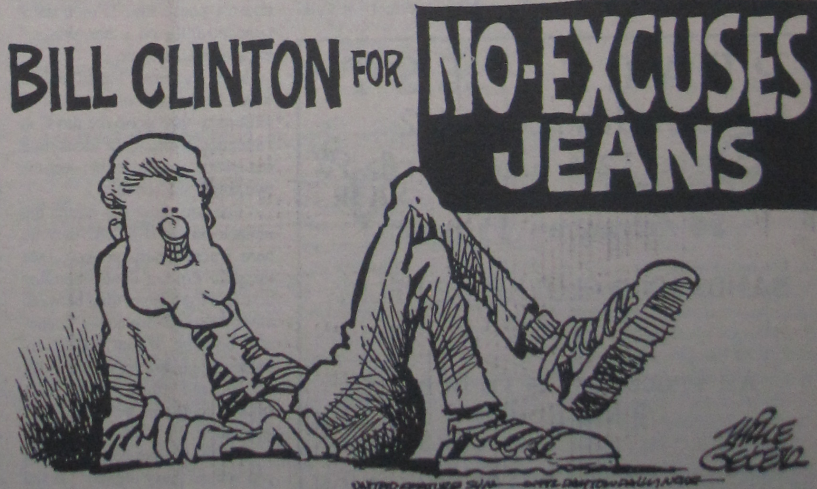
While I was there, I learned something about politics that I didn't want to know. I learned that it involves a large amount of corruption. Everyone from the lobbyists to the politicians themselves wanted power and control. They would use and abuse their power to play the game and achieve what they wanted to accomplish.

Before my experience, I thought that politicians wanted to help other

people and make a difference in the world. I had a very idealistic view of politics. I thought that I could be a politician and make a difference. I became very disappointed and very cynical after the experience on Capitol Hill. I lost my faith in our political system.

Now, I don't look at the world through rose-colored glasses. I have gained a more realistic view of the world of politics.

I realize that it is a game of power and control. I would still like to change the system and make politics a more honorable profession. Yet, I understand that it would be a long and difficult process. I now have a very tangible grasp on reality.





## Hollins Through the Eyes of a Rare Breed

by Susanna Person  
Features Reporter

Hollins has its share of male graduate students. It has a large handful of male professors, too. But once in a blue moon, Hollins is privileged enough to have a male undergraduate in its midst. Billy Carpenter, junior, is taking courses at Hollins this semester through an exchange program with Hampden-Sydney College. Once a pilgrim on Route 460, Billy now finds a refuge in a quiet room in Turner Hall. His presence has raised some eyebrows, but gives others the rare opportunity to view Hollins College through the eyes of a man.

Billy's initial reasons for attending Hollins are strictly academic. A Biology/Pre-Med major, he wanted to take advantage of the internships offered through the Short Term office.

"I really need a paying job this summer, and since most of the jobs in the hospital field either don't pay or require training, and I needed intern experience, I took advantage of this opportunity. Dr. Gray helped me with an internship at the Mary Immaculate Hospital in Newport News. I arranged the internship but she advised me and gave me a grade. The internship gave me four hours credit which helped me get caught up in hours," said Carpenter.

Billy is taking four classes: Organic Chemistry, Physics, New Testament, and Contemporary

Moral Issues. In comparison to the classes he has taken at Hampden-Sydney, he finds his schoolwork here to be just as demanding, if not more so.

"I lot of people have the impression that southern girls' schools are notoriously easy. But I was very pleasantly surprised. I haven't found it to be easy at all. All my classes are challenging and I'm glad for that. I need to apply all the stuff I'm learning, especially now with the Med-CAT exam coming up in two weeks. I'd say the science classes I'm taking now have prepared me very well for what I'll be expected to know on the exam," asserted Carpenter.

The intimate atmosphere and efficiency of the science department is a definite plus for Carpenter.

"Everything is perfect—it's all I

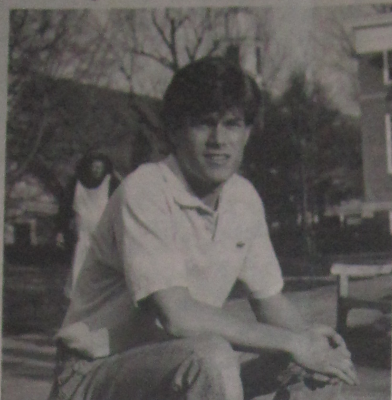


Photo: Peggy Walton

need. Both my physics and chemistry classes are small, so it's easy to get to know the people I'm working with. The professors are so knowledgeable and if there are any questions whatsoever, they are more than willing to help us," commented Carpenter.

One of the only potential disadvantages to Carpenter's attendance is, of course, the fact that he is a rare breed in these parts. In classes where he is often the only male, Carpenter must face a skeptical mass on a daily basis: i.e., his doubting female peers. But he claims that this has never discouraged him from being an active participant in class discussions.

"I've had experiences in the past where I've been with a lot of girls in a classroom setting. It just doesn't phase me. I'm usually concentrating on other things," explained Carpenter.

While Carpenter has little time to sit back and compare life at Hollins to the "good ole days" at Hampden-Sydney, he does find remarkable similarities between the two single sex schools.

"For one thing the dorms are never locked at H-SC like they are here. But generally speaking, I see the same kind of female bonding here that I see happening between me and my male friends—'single-sex' bonding, if that makes any sense. When girls aren't around at Hampden-Sydney, guys walk around unshaven with their hair uncombed. It's the same thing here. What you see here isn't what you see on party nights," stated Carpenter.

## Regarding You & AIDS

Information Provided by  
Student Health Advisory Board

SHAB members would like to acknowledge the growing concern about AIDS on our campus. There have been questions about obtaining information on the AIDS Antibody Test. It tests for the antibodies produced when the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, or HIV, is present in blood which may cause AIDS. This is not a "day after" test. It usually takes 6 to 12 weeks for your body to make antibodies that can be found by the test. Some people take as long as six months to make antibodies.

The Health Services on campus can send away the AIDS Test but they charge a testing fee and the test would be a confidential testing not an anonymous testing.

The difference is that Hollins College is required by Virginia state law to report to the health department the names of people who test positive for the HIV antibody. These test results are confidential; your medical records and identity will be protected. Virginia Department of Health offers free, anonymous testing. No name or identification is required, taken, or reported. The agency never knows your personal identity; therefore, they cannot report your test results to anyone else, and you must go back to obtain the results.

Also the Health Department offers pre- and post-AIDS counseling regardless of the outcome of your testing. For more information call the Virginia AIDS hotline: 1-800-533-4148 or the AIDS Support Group, Inc.: 1-804-979-7714

### Directions to Roanoke City Health Department

HIV antibody testing each Monday 3-6 P.M. 515-8th Street, S.W.

Take I-581 S. off Exit at Elm Avenue, turn right on Elm. Go through the intersection and up the hill until 8th Street, then turn right.

Anyone studying on campus, regardless of gender, would contend that campus security can often be somewhat of a hassle. As a male student, the cards were not exactly stacked in Carpenter's favor. But he has only had run-ins with security on a few occasions, and feels that they are just doing their job.

And now for the answer that everyone has been waiting for; yes, he is dating someone from Hollins, and no, that is not the reason that he decided to come to school here. He admits, though, that it has made things easier on their relationship.

"It's a big relief to be able to spend the few free moments I have with her. With both of our busy schedules we really only see each other at meal times and on weekends. This does seem a little strange—still only seeing each other a very little bit during the week while being on the same cam-

pus. But it's a lot better than driving two hours and having to dedicate a whole day to it. She's been great about toting me around and introducing me to her friends. A lot of girls probably would feel like their space has been invaded, but she's really helped get me in on things."

Although Billy Carpenter may eventually have to return to the status of "Road Cheese", his stay here at Hollins has given him, and the students at Hollins, a new perspective on the effectiveness of single-sex educations. Exchange programs like this allow men and women alike to grasp a better understanding of their counterpart's learning experiences outside of a social environment.



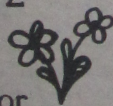
## PEACE FEST

Sunday, April 2



12-6 p.m.  
Tinker Beach

\$4 Advance - \$5 Door

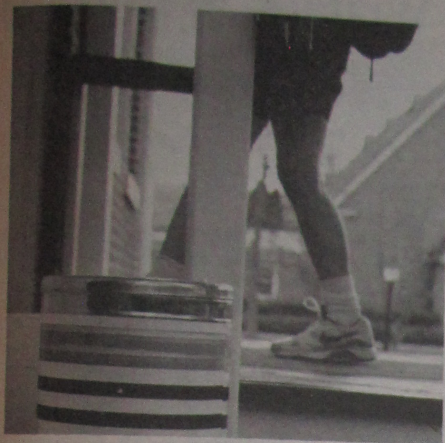


BANDS. FOOD. CLOTHES. JEWELRY.  
BALLOONS.

All Proceeds Go To Benefit  
RAM House

SPONSORED BY THE PEACE COALITION





Peggy Walton

## Sesquinote No. 9

SesquiNote Number 9  
by Jake Wheeler  
Sesquicentennial Chair

John and Ann Halsey Hollins were childless and the college seemed their principal interest. She continued to support the college after his death in 1859. One can only speculate about the impact she might have had upon the college had not her fortune of \$140,000 been wiped out by the Civil War.

While "the late unpleasantness" affected our finances mightily, it did not touch us directly. No Yankee trooper ever set foot here, though Mr. Cocke, headed for the gate every time he heard that troops

were in the area. He carried a letter...a generic one, to Blue or Gray, depending upon who showed up, urging them to pass this place by. Some Grays did encamp at Enon Church [across from what is now Route 11], and General Jubal Early slept one night in Susanna Cocke's living room...without removing his boots. Commencement was cut short when word came that the Feds were in Salem aburnin' things; indeed the smoke could be seen from the campus.

Otherwise Hollins was untouched. It survived the war and its aftermath through for a while many students paid part or all of their fees in provisions.



Semester at Seasers: Jessie Martin, Elizabeth Whilden, and Julie King.

HELLO FROM THE TIP OF AFRICA!

I hope all is well in Hollins-land. Things are going great on the SS Universe for everyone here: me, Jessie, Elizabeth, and Sandra. We have one more day here and then it is off to Kenya. I wish we had a little more time in Capetown, though; this has been my favorite part of the trip so far. Capetown is right in front of Table Mountain. I'm actually watching the sunrise behind it as I write. The other students aren't as great as the ones at Hollins, of course, but the ship is wonderful and the ports are all amazing! Take care—

Love,  
Julie King, '93

GREETINGS FROM LONDON!

All is going well here in the BIG CITY! Everyone seems to be well adjusted and pleased with their homestays! Classes are going well despite the fact that *all* of our papers for every class are due this week.

Jennifer, the architecture professor, is getting everyone into shape for spring break running us from cathedral to cathedral; the music class is very impressive by Ally's (the music professor) beautiful voice; and we are learning TONS about British politics because they are having a general election while we're here.

Our social life has mean non-stop meeting fun locals left and right. We have also discovered

CHICITOS free Mexican buffet and pound drinks on Wednesday nights.

Travel life is great! Many Hollins College Women are going to Paris next weekend to visit others on the Paris program and everyone is planning SPRING BREAK—Spain and the South of France being the most popular destinations. I think everyone is interested in a little sun because the weather has been quite nasty. Well all is "smashing" as they say! Take care —

Meghan Cole, '93

## ADA BLOODMOBILE

Tuesday, April 21  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Tayloe Gym

GOAL: 80 donors

As always, the American Red Cross is in critical need of blood so please urge people to sign up to donate. There will be a table in the Moody Lobby during lunch and dinner the week before the Bloodmobile.

## Developing Leadership Skills

by Hilary Bumm and Elizabeth Conley  
L.E.O. Leadership

We know them well. We use them every day, sometimes when we least expect. "They" are commonly known to the Hollins campus as LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SKILLS. By participating in such seminars as Leaders on the Grow, Go, and Show, and various others held in Janney or PDR, these skills have become embedded in our brains.

In order to maximize the usage

of these skills, it is sometimes easier to imagine them in random situations. Here are a few of the ways how we chose to remember these skills when we were Freshmen and terms like "Group Dynamics" seemed alien.

### Creative Variations of Fundamental Leadership Skills

1. Time Management—Getting everything done so you can go to that great party.
2. Assertiveness Training—Talking your way out of a speeding ticket.
3. Decision Making—Choosing

just the right dress.

4. Targeting our Resources—Getting set up on a blind date through your best friend.

We hope you will find this list humorous, and maybe even helpful. Because of the practical nature of Leadership skills, they often pop into our personal and social lives by going beyond committees, jobs, and programs. Perhaps we should have the name changed from Leadership Skills to "LIFE SKILLS"!



## Literary Festival/Reunion Brings Back Writers, Memories

by Marsha Gajjy, Features Reporter  
Photos: Michele Faranda

One of the most important bits of information I got out of this year's Literary Festival is that "moonshine is even more toxic than Ripple," according to Carol Poster, '77.

I also learned that Annie Dillard is warm and approachable, even to a goober like myself, and that Doris Dorrie is a literary as well as a cinematic genius. Lex Allen and Richard "R.W.H.W.D.W." Dillard have huge and avid followings composed of past and present students. But most importantly, I now have incontrovertible proof for the success of Hollins' Creative Writing program: we're just too damn good!

The Literary Festival kicked off with a student reading on Friday, March 18. Undergrad and grad students read some really fab stuff, and the alumni present looked impressed.

On Saturday David Adams Richards began the second leg of the Fest. Winner of Canada's highest literary prize and writer-in-residence here at Hollins, he read from one of his seven novels. If Fishburn has any of them, check them out. This is insightful funny stuff.

The signing party for *Elvis in Oz*, the anthology of poems and stories from past and present students, occurred after the Richards reading. I must admit that I was a little bewildered at first. All of the alumni who had works in the book had red and white capson, but this didn't help if I couldn't read their name tags. So after a while I lost all sense of decency and just asked anyone with a hat on, "What is your name? What page is your stuff on in this book? Can you sign it for me?" I'm relieved to say that all



Dorris Dorrie reading at the Literary Festival

of them were great sports. This is where I met Annie Dillard, whose novel *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* is one of the best books ever. And at the end of the book signing, when everyone was leaving, Katreniah Washington and I met Jack Glover, host of the children's show "Paint Pot Alley." If you spent any of your childhood in Virginia, you probably watched this show on PBS, right along with "Sesame Street" and "Big Blue Marble." Jack Glover is married to Susan Hankla, '73, sister to professor Cathy Hankla, BA '80, MA '81. Katreniah and I were so stoked to get the autograph of one of our childhood faves from T.V.!

Visiting Fulbright Scholar Doris Dorrie read next. She read English translations of two German short stories, "L.A." and "A



Winners of the Nancy Thorpe Memorial Poetry Prize: Virginia Loo from Hawaii (left), and Bess Wohl from Brooklyn, NY attend the Literary Festival.

Man". I kid you not when I say I was totally blown away by this woman! She read for at least 30 minutes in a language that wasn't her native tongue and she did it better than most of us could have. And her stuff was fantastic. If Fishburn has any of her short story collections, I enthusiastically recommend them, too.

The alumni read next. This is where Carol Poster informed us of the greater toxicity of moonshine. Tina Dahl '88 gave us a new word for our vocabularies, "pingo". (Ask someone who was there what this means—it can't be printed in the paper, I'm sure!) Henry Taylor '66 and Jane Gentry Vance '63 read some rockin' rhymed poetry. Stephen Stark '84 has a novel hitting the stores in July. And Carolyn Cromelin

and Ginger Donelson of "Dick's Island" fame graced our campus once again with a playlet about life at Hollins and after Hollins.

This is where the actual Literary Festival ended for me.

But the memories and the people I met will stay with me forever. The Literary Festival is more than just an annual gathering of people who graduated from the same school with the same degree. There's nothing more positive than listening to these talented alumni and knowing that you did make the right choice in majoring in English or Creative Writing rather than Computer Science like you dad wanted you to do. I left the Fest with a great sense of affirmation and inspiration, two invaluable gifts that we wacky writers will always need.

## Writer - in - Residence Richards Gives A Writer's Block Remedy

by Bethany Weaver  
Features Reporter

Writer-in-Residence David Adam Richards was born in New Castle, New Brunswick just two miles north of the Maine-Canadian border. He has been writing full time since he left St. Thomas University in New Brunswick. Three credits short of a degree he says he was at a time in his life where he had to choose between his studies and his love of writing. He struggled through some hard times but now supports himself and his family with his writing.

Canada is a place he will always call home and "almost invariably [he] writes about the small towns and areas [he] grew up in." Before arriving at Hollins Mr. Richards completed a novel he had been working on, and has intentions to start a new one while he is



Photo by Peggy Walton

here. When asked which of his own works he liked the best he replied: "I like them all in one way and hate them all in other ways. It depends on my mood." His favorite

author is Leo Tolstoy as well as several other Russian novelists.

As far as outside influences on his work "some people have said that I was influ-

enced by D.H. Lawrence before I had read anything by him." Richards feels he is "influenced by Faulkner on the surface and writes about similar situations." He has not written a poem in years but would like to try some in the future just to keep his hand in it. He does write essays, screenplays, and short stories in addition to his novels.

David Richards has read at Hollins in the past and has known Rick Trethewey for ten years which is how he came to be writer-in-residence here. He is living on campus in Barbee and has an office in Dana.

He meets with students to discuss their work and will also sit in on some creative writing seminars. For all you aspiring writers "with writer's block I find the best policy is to try to work every day, to write through it."



## Upcoming Events

**Monday, April 6**  
Tennis at Sweet Briar

**Tuesday, April 7**  
Lacrosse vs. Roanoke, 4:30 p.m.

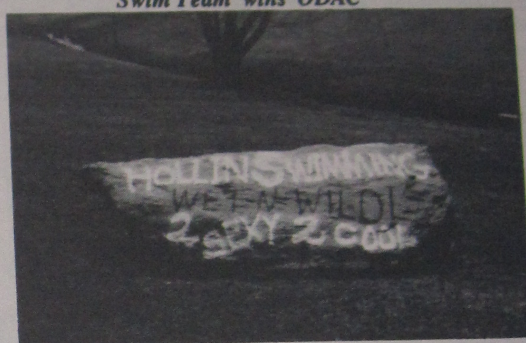
**Friday, April 10**  
Lacrosse at the Hollins Woman's College  
Invitational  
Tennis at RMWC

**Saturday, April 11**  
Riding at Sweet Briar Horse Show  
Lacrosse at Hollins Invitational

## An ODAC Moment

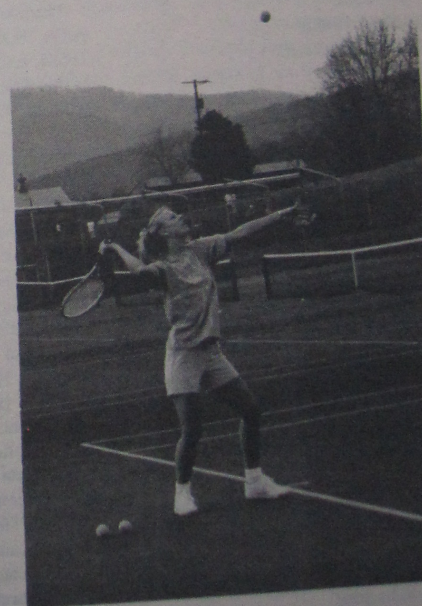
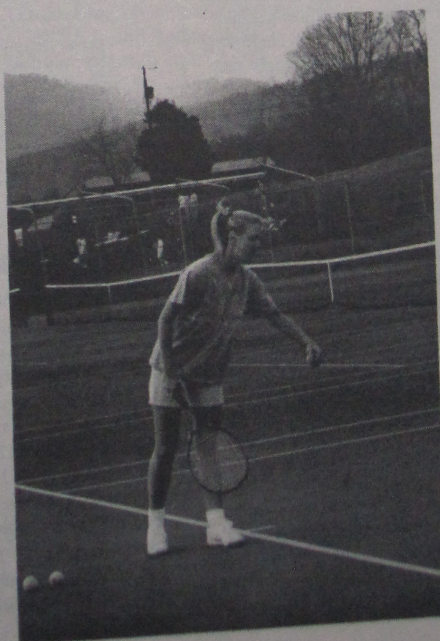
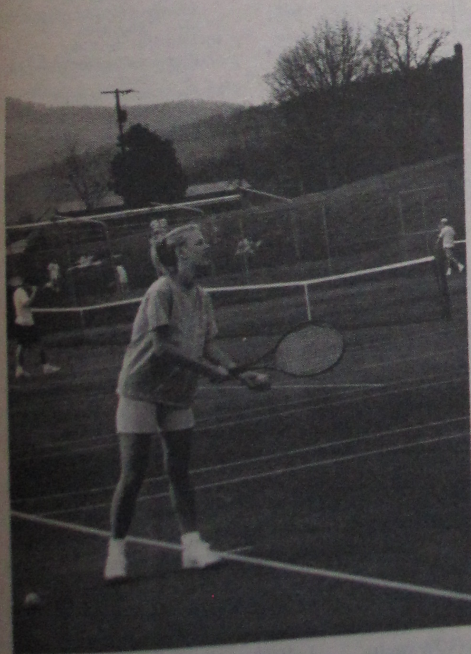


*Swim Team wins ODAC*



## Tennis Practice

*Photos by Michele Faranda*





## The Night Was Right On

by Mobley Roach  
Entertainment Reporter

After 'Til Tuesday on March 3, the apartments hosted the annual 70's party. On practically every row, BeeGee-type music blasted over the sound of people—sounds which included a number of male voices. For this reason as well as the imaginative costumes, the abundance of party contracts, and the less stressed security, the parties were successful.

Not only were Hollins students graced by the presence of visitors from Washington and Lee and Hampden-Sydney, but also by a team of French rugby players. One player noted the number of gentlemen attending the parties and asked, "If this is a girls' school, then where do all the boys come from?" Normally such a question would not be asked during apartment parties. Another player, in awe of the plenitude of beverages consumed, asked, "You do this every Tuesday?" Well, not quite.

Another factor of enjoyment

came from the diversity of costumes. The seniors led in participation—wearing clothes ranging from disco to groove. Most of the costumes were hand-picked from the Salvation Army—our number one supplier in fun clothes. Amanda Glenn, when asked about the costumes explained, "They were very polyester."

Security, which has often been a source of complaint by visiting male guests, can also be attributed to the success of 70's night. The security car could be seen driving by, but the parties were not broken up, even in the later hours. Apartment residents obtained many party contracts and, as a result, there were fewer people between the rows.

The parties ended in a gradual process of elimination which perhaps had something to do with the drooping eyelids in Wednesday morning classes.

Ilonna Brown summed up the success of the parties with a dominant view, "It was nice not to drive up the road."

## Hollins Dancing in the Big Apple

by Ashley Hinkle  
Features Reporter

On January twelfth of this year a small group of Hollins students embarked on a journey. With their instructor, the students boarded a train for New York City—the dance capitol of the world. As one of those students, I can assure you that we were more than a little nervous. The purpose of our Short Term trip was to study dance. We were to take classes from many different teachers, each with a different style and technique.

There were many questions running through my mind. For instance, "What if we could not keep up with these New York dancers?" or better yet, "What if I got laughed right out of class?" With thoughts such as these, I entered my first dance class. It wasn't so bad, but it was a yoga class which technically was not too difficult. However, the teacher was friendly and very helpful. It seemed that this class stuff was going to be great!

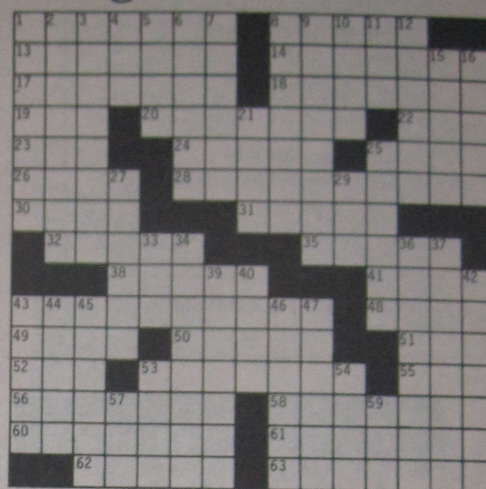
Then, we arrived at our second class—ballet. Now ballet was a form of dance that I really had not studied. I had no experience in this type of dance and my first class was to be in New York. I was extremely nervous! The teacher was not mean, but she was not the patient yoga teacher we had just left. I was feeling very discouraged about the class, and left halfway through.

At this point, I decided maybe I just wasn't cut out to be a dancer. I wanted to quit, but I had no choice. I had to keep attending classes. Then things got better.

After the second week I couldn't wait to go to class. I finally began to feel more confident. I learned how things worked and for a brief period, I felt like a part of the dance world.

The confidence I gained while in New York cannot be replaced. I studied with many different teachers in several styles of dance, and I learned something from each of them. I became a part of that creative energy and that is an experience well worth all of the nervousness and initial discouragement I suffered.

## collegiate crossword



© Edward Julius Collegiate CW8814

### ACROSS

- 1 Polo division
- 8 Treble symbol (2 wds.)
- 13 Press
- 14 Prince or mountain
- 17 Navigation devices
- 18 With dander up
- 19 Consumed
- 20 Noise from nature
- 22 South American resort
- 23 A.L. city (abbr.)
- 24 Ex-boxer Griffith
- 25 Room to swing
- 26 Novelist Murdoch
- 28 Impossibly persistent
- 30 Very long time
- 31 "newt..."
- 32 Legal right
- 35 African villages
- 38 Yellowish pigment
- 41 Home of Parmenides
- 43 Deification
- 48 Bargain
- 49 "a soul"
- 50 Church society or oven brand
- 51 "C10"
- 52 Ending for concert
- 53 Like a diehard
- 55 You: Ger.
- 56 Phony one
- 58 Sea off Australia
- 60 Heavenly
- 61 Office terms
- 62 Little girl ingredient
- 63 Most irritable

### DOWN

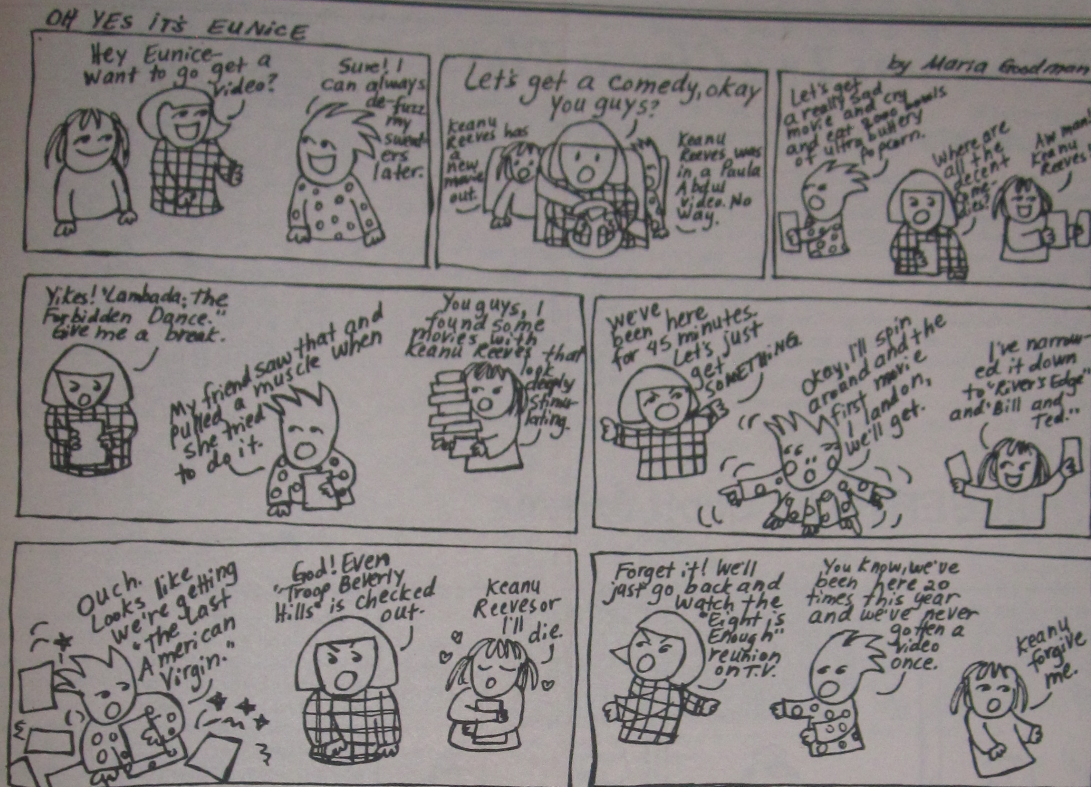
- 1 Its capital is Zagreb
- 2 Bullied
- 3 Kind of motive
- 4 Mauna
- 5 Immanuel
- 6 Miss Williams
- 7 Curriculum vitae
- 8 "Fire when ready,"
- 9 Went out of control
- 10 Like Pinocchio
- 11 Suffix for differ
- 12 Terrifying
- 15 Walter — Disney
- 16 Peasants of India
- 21 Khartoum's river
- 25 University in New York
- 27 Arrogant
- 29 As well
- 33 I: Ger.
- 34 Like a play
- 36 Foolish — famous horse
- 37 Ocean blazes (2 wds.)
- 39 — languages
- 40 Biblical brother
- 42 Post-season football "team"
- 43 "West Side Story" character
- 44 Shoot a TV closeup (2 wds.)
- 45 Apes, for short
- 46 Latent
- 47 — cow
- 53 Arias
- 54 — gliding
- 57 With it
- 59 Sum, esse, —

## Miss Roanoke Valley Beauty Pageant

The 1993 Miss Roanoke Valley Pageant will be held in November, 1992, at Salem High School. This pageant is a local preliminary to the Miss Virginia Pageant and is part of the Miss America Scholarship Program. Scholarships for the local pageant are awarded as follows: \$1200 to the new Miss Roanoke Valley; \$600 to the first place runner-up; \$200 to the second place runner-up. Contestants are scored on talent (40%), an interview with the judges (40%), and evening gown and swimsuit (10% each). Applications for contestants are now be-

ing accepted. The pageant is open to any female who will be between the ages of 17 and 24 as of September 11, 1993. In addition, a contestant must be a high school graduate; single, having never been married; and of good morale character. The entry fee is \$175. This fee can be paid by the applicant, or she may seek sponsors to pay the fee for her. Interested persons should call Ruby Hicks at 366-8644. All entries must be postmarked by midnight September 1, 1992.





## Miss Manners -- Misconceptions about Manners

by Judith Martin  
United Features Syndicate

When Miss Manners undertook the sacred mission of teaching manners to the world, she thought she at least had the advantage of writing on a clean slate.

Nobody seemed to have one.

This was not, she allowed, because people were socially disadvantaged or naturally boorish. An amiable society of openhearted folks had just mistakenly decided that etiquette was false and that totally natural behavior would be desirable.

Now that this concept has been in practice for a few decades, the idealists of yesteryear have only too clear an idea of what it is to live with everyone else's natural behavior. They are—naturally—desperate for some sort of decent adjustment to it.

But the ordinary transmission of

rules, from one generation to another, was interrupted, and now mistaken ideas abound about what is and is not proper. Far from starting from scratch, Miss Manners has to bat down outrageously erroneous notions of what actually is proper.

Here are some of the more popular misconceptions:

—That elbows must never, ever rest on the table. Miss Manners hears that one several times a week, occasionally from people tee-heeing that they have caught the august Miss Manners herself in a "mistake".

The mistake is not knowing that the rule specifies that one must never put elbows on the table while eating; it does not apply to leaning forward on a table between courses or after completing the meal.

Perhaps this is one misconception Miss Manners can't blame on recent times. Back in 1922, her

predecessor Emily Post was satirizing the contortions of people who held this notion. By now Miss Manners should just be grateful that anyone remembers the rule at all, even if imperfectly.

—That a lady's name changes when her husband dies. Nowadays a married lady has a great deal of more or less socially condoned choice about how she wishes to style herself—whether or not she takes her husband's surname, and, even if she does, whether she does or does not want to be called Mrs. with his first name, rather than Ms. with hers.

But whatever she has chosen, it does not change in widowhood, no matter how often her friends attack her in bereavement to tell her otherwise.

—That people who get married have up to a year to thank those who give them presents. No, they do not. Miss Manners gives them

about 20 minutes after the arrival of each present; more lenient souls admit the possibility of its taking up to two weeks.

The highly rude notion that one can wait a year to express thanks seems to have originated with correct rule that one can send a wedding present within a year after the marriage. But once sent, it must be acknowledged immediately.

—That a proper place setting must include a teaspoon. Presumably this mistake comes from silverware manufacturers, who sell the basic place setting as knife, fork and teaspoon, rather than the much more versatile oval spoon of greater size, which can be used for soup, dessert and cereal.

The teaspoon being used when tea is served, it is properly placed on the saucer or the teacup. Thus it does not belong in a place setting ever, unless it is being pressed into service for something that is miss-

ing—in which case, one would have been better off to buy the larger spoon at the same price.

—That the receipt of any announcement of a birth, graduation or marriage, or an invitation to a ceremony connected with one of these, requires the recipient to send a present. All invitations must be answered, and every social announcement should bring forth a letter of congratulations. But the declining of an invitation need not be accompanied by a present.

—That the number of bridesmaids in a wedding must equal the number of groomsmen. Rather, they should number the intimate friends of the bridal couple.

The attempt to form auxiliary couples for a wedding recessional has driven the affianced crazy, with demands of "Well, I have to have Chris, so you've just got to find somebody else." Not only is there

Continued on Page 12



## GSF Sponsors Two Classic Plays

Information Provided by  
Hollins College General Speakers Fund

Shenandoah Shakespeare *EXPRESS*, a touring company hailed for presenting pared-down, sassy, and innovative Shakespeare, will present *The Merchant of Venice*, Monday, April 13, and *Macheth*, Tuesday, April 14, in the Hollins College Theatre at 8 p.m. Both performances are free and open to the community.

Using theatrical conditions similar to those for which Shakespeare's works were origi-

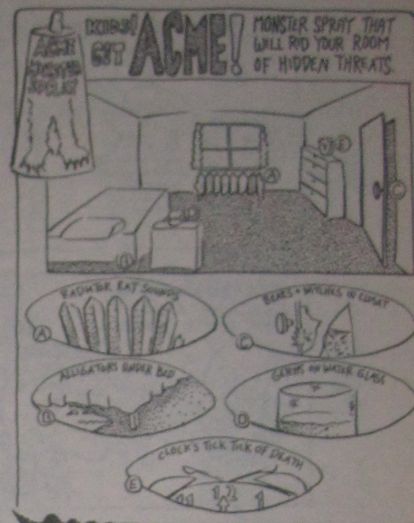
nally designed, the SSE players move from venue to venue incorporating minimal sets, universal lighting, and thrust staging to make the audience feel a part of the play. By following the author's staging examples, productions are limited to two hours each (Shakespeare's "two hours' traffic of our stage"); the words are spoken as natural language ("suit the action to the word, the word to the action"); and the humor and action of the work are stressed (plots are filled with the fun, passion, and terror of being human).

The Shenandoah Shakespeare

*EXPRESS* has performed in a variety of theatres nationally, from the John Houseman in New York City to the Folger in Washington, DC. Experts have compared them favorably to the best Shakespearean companies.

Peggy O'Brien, head of education for the Folger Shakespeare Library said, "The SSE plays...with vast amount of talent in beautifully clear productions vibrating with an energy that immediately involves the audience."

The event is being sponsored by the General Speakers Fund.



©1991 Andrew Lichten. OFF THE DEEP END

## DILBERT® by Scott Adams



## Miss Manners

Continued from Page 11

nothing wrong with having pairs of bridesmaids march together at the recession, but no one is watching by then anyway, because people's eyes are still misty from sentiment at the ceremony itself, or because they are looking around for their gloves now that the wedding is over.

—That bringing a "hostess gift" cancels the need to reciprocate an invitation. Such presents are charming but not obligatory.

What is more, the bearer of such a present, and its recipient, need not regard it as an addition to the meal immediately at hand. It is perfectly proper to put the gift aside for another time.

Miss Manners hopes this will clear things up.

Nobody likes a messy slate, and there are so many proper things to be put on it.

Dear Miss Manners—Yes, spring is in the air and love is in bloom, but the couple riding in front of me this morning on a popular mode of transportation showed far too much public affection.

Please understand—I don't consider myself a prude, nor do I have any ill will toward them. However, I was made extremely uncomfortable by the way they were draped upon each other, apparently oblivious to the other riders within inches of them, who couldn't help

but be witness to their carrying. Gentle Reader—It occurs to Miss Manners that the going phrase such a situation used to be "Do you people have a home to go to in days when they probably do not. It was the living-room scene with their parents coughing in background, the front porch of women's dormitory, the park, the bus.

Isn't it strange that now society has made it easy for couples to find privacy, the problem still exists? Ah, well.

Miss Manners is not so much softened by the presence of love or a facsimile thereof—it is so vulgar to carry on in front of others—but by the fact that it is rude to chastise strangers. However, you feel moved to do so, she bequeaths you the traditional phrase. Perhaps this will distract them; they tell you their real-estate problems.

